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□ 1015

WE MUST PROVIDE REAL, MEANINGFUL, AND REASONABLE TAX RELIEF FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, Republicans in the House of Representatives are keeping their word to the American people. As a member of the Committee on Appropriations, I am very proud of the work that the committee has done and led by the gentleman from Florida who has crafted bills that will keep the agreement and maintain the budget caps that we promised back in 1997.

On the other side, the flip side, the President's budget proposal busts the budget spending by some 42 billion over our agreed upon limit. How does he get away with that my colleagues ask? By using gimmicks, by assuming new taxes on the American people knowing full well that the Republican Congress would never agree to those tax hikes.

Now we understand that a supplemental spending plan is coming our way from the White House. This emergency spending would add up to 12 billion more.

Madam Speaker, this illustrates our point about why we must provide meaningful tax relief to the American people. If we do not give the American people back their money, it is sure to be spent by the big government crowd here in Washington, D.C. That would be a huge disservice to the people who pay our bills, the American taxpayer.

STAND UP AND SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE MASSACRES GOING ON IN EAST TIMOR

(Mr. CAPUANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, 200,000 refugees, 3,000 people per hour leaving their homes and their country. Martial law imposed, paramilitary people roaming the countryside. Sound familiar? Four and a half months ago we did this in Kosovo. I thought the problem then was that this House did not have anything to say about it until we already had troops on the ground. I think we need to stand up now and say something about the massacres that are going on in East Timor.

One way or the other I happen to think that we need to do something. I think America stands for democracy; I

think we need to stand up. That is why today's resolution being filed already has 20 cosponsors. It was only drafted yesterday in bipartisan support, and I ask every Member to look at that resolution and to join us to have this Congress stand up before, before we commit troops either ourselves or the United Nations or SEATO or someone else.

Stand up and be counted. Do our job.

LIBERALS HATE THE IDEA OF ALLOWING AMERICANS TO KEEP MORE OF THEIR OWN MONEY

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, the Washington Post editorial page has editorialized yet again against the Republican tax cut proposals. Hardly a week goes by without the Washington Post and other liberal publications warning against the idea of letting Americans keep more of their hard-earned money. To me that is a pretty good indication that it is exactly what we need to do.

Of course, the same crowd that called Ronald Reagan's tax cuts dangerous, foolish, and irresponsible are now singing the same tune today. They are the same people who just 2 years ago said that it was impossible to cut taxes and balance the budget at the same time. And, of course, they are the same crowd that could not praise President Clinton enough for raising taxes by a record amount.

See, Madam Speaker, some people really do not believe that people can spend their own money better than Washington can, and they really hate the idea that people should be able to keep more of the fruits of their hard-earned labor and reap the benefits of saving and sacrificing and realizing their dreams, and of course they are against tax cuts.

GOP TAX CUT SELLS CHILDREN SHORT

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, over the August recess, the message from America was clear:

We do not want the GOP tax break.

What is realized, the GOP plan provides little tax relief for middle- and lower-income Americans, the ones who need it the most. It does nothing to continue our efforts to reduce the Federal debt. It does nothing to strengthen Social Security or Medicare, and it does nothing, it does nothing to help the dire conditions of our schools, the infrastructure of our schools in the United States. Republicans offer only a

small arbitrage provision in the recently passed tax bill as their aid for our beleaguered school system. This initiative would provide minimal tax benefits to school districts. These benefits can actually delay school construction for more than 2 years.

We can fix our highways; we can rebuild our bridges. Why do we sit by and do nothing for the infrastructure that houses our Nation's greatest asset, our children? There are many chilling accounts of near fatal accidents at schools in New York, and I fear the day that conditions at our schools deteriorate to the point where accidents are simply unavoidable.

I know that providing tax relief to our schools for construction assistance is not only the right thing to do as a Congressman, but the right thing to do as a new parent and as an American.

THE REPUBLICAN PLAN IS FOR ALL AMERICANS, NOT JUST THE RICH

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, Congressional Budget Office projects approximately \$3 trillion in budget surpluses over the next 10 years. The Republican plan would take \$2 trillion of that money and put it in the Social Security and Medicare lockbox. That means that \$2 trillion goes towards retirement security for those two important programs. It also reduces the debt by \$2 trillion. The remaining \$1 trillion would be returned to the taxpayers, all taxpayers.

Now my liberal friends in the House here keep saying it is tax cuts for the rich, tax cuts for the rich. It is just not true. It is for all Americans.

The details? For example: The marriage penalty.

Right now, a married couple in this country pays higher taxes than a couple who is living together and not married. That is just not right. So it phases out the marriage penalty.

It also eliminates over time the death tax or the inheritance tax. Right now the Federal Government can take up to 55 percent of what a person has earned during the course of their life when they die. It means the family farm gets sold, small businesses get sold, people lose their jobs.

So let us save those important programs and cut taxes.

AS THE CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY, OUR VOICE SHOULD BE THE LOUDEST FOR PROTECTING THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, on August 30 the world watched as the